

RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1005

A Resolution requesting registrars, registrar forms and registrar training in Metro Nashville Public High Schools to increase youth voter participation.

WHEREAS, Davidson County officials need to improve the efficiency of the conduct of local elections by providing a better educational process to the voting public; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of Metro Nashville Public Schools to form civically aware and engaged graduates, demonstrated by the requirement that every graduate must take at least half a year of a government course; and

WHEREAS, awareness of individual voting rights is an integral element of a fully developed civics education; and

WHEREAS, increased voter registration accessibility directly correlates with increased voter turnout; and

WHEREAS, increased voter turnout is conducive to a high-functioning democracy; and

WHEREAS, official voter registration locations are often inconvenient or inaccessible for students without access to a vehicle; and

WHEREAS, teachers are often the most accessible and influential figures in the lives of young people; and

WHEREAS, only official registrars can ensure that voters can vote absentee in their first election; and

WHEREAS, many young students who pursue higher education in other localities or states vote utilizing absentee ballots; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the council that elections be as open and fair as possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1: That the Metropolitan County Council hereby goes on record as requesting that administrators of all public and private high schools of Davidson County assist the Davidson County Election Commission in the registration of eligible students to vote.

Section 2: That the Metropolitan County Council hereby goes on record as requesting the Davidson County Election Commission offer two training sessions specifically for teachers, one during the month of August and one in September. Information regarding the time and date of both sessions must be sent to the administrations of every Davidson County high school by August 1st of every year. Teachers who opt to register will be excused from school for a day of training.

Section 3: That the Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as committing to honor all Davidson County teachers certified as registrars during a regular Council meeting in January, 2018.

Section 4: The Metropolitan Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this Resolution to Davidson County Administrator of Elections, Mr. Jeff Roberts, and to each member of the Davidson County Election Commission.

Section 5: The Metropolitan Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to Director of Nashville Public Schools, Dr. Shawn Joseph, and to each member of the Metropolitan Board of Public Education.

Section 6: The Metropolitan Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this Resolution to the Director of Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, Dr. Shawn Joseph, and the administrators of all of Davidson County's private high schools.

INTRODUCED BY:

Russ Pulley
Member of Council